

News from Rep. Stephanie Herseth
For Immediate Release
Contact: Russ Levsen, 202-226-4449

REP. STEPHANIE HERSETH (D-SD) AND REP. GIL GUTKNECHT
(R-MN) HEAR INPUT FOR 2007 FARM BILL

Bipartisan Meeting with Leaders from Renewable Energy, Rural Water
and Agriculture Sectors in Sioux Falls

January 6, 2005, Sioux Falls, SD - Rep. Stephanie Herseth (D-SD)
and Rep. Gil Gutknecht (R-MN) met with a host of renewable energy, rural
water, and agriculture leaders today for a forum about energy issues in
rural America. Herseth and Gutknecht, who represent neighboring districts,
both serve on the House Agriculture Committee and will play important
roles in helping to craft the next Farm Bill.

Herseth said, "Today's forum was an important part of laying the
groundwork as we begin discussions for the 2007 Farm Bill. As we look
ahead to a tough budget environment, the challenge for the bipartisan
coalition of farm state Representatives, including Gil and me, will be to
protect both the current funding levels and the adequacy of the safety net
for family farmers. I am grateful for the input from a wide range of South
Dakotans whose livelihood depends on renewable energy and agriculture."

Gutknecht said, "Americans need to turn to clean, renewable fuel produced
right here in the United States, and it's a pleasure to meet with some of
the people who can make that a reality. The issues discussed today will
have a major impact on the next Farm Bill, as well as the future of
renewable energy for the country as a whole."

Participants included:

- Jim Doolittle, SD Agricultural Experiment Station
- Jeff Fox, Broin Industries
- Brian Jennings, Executive Director, American Coalition for Ethanol
- Reid Jensen, Vice President, SD Corn Growers Association
- Dr. Gary Lemme, Dean and Professor, SDSU College of Agriculture and Biological Science
- Scott Parsley, East River Electric, Assistant General Manager
- Lisa Richardson, Executive Director, SD Corn Growers Association
- Doug Sombke, President, Farmers Union
- Scott Vanderwal, President, Farm Bureau
- Brian Woldt, President of SD Corn Utilization Council

In the coming months, Congress will begin to discuss the scope and contours of the next Farm Bill, including its Energy Title, which will set our national agriculture policy well into the next decade. The current Farm Bill is set to expire in September of 2007, and the House Agriculture Committee is expected to begin holding hearings on this legislation in the spring.

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